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| Form PTO-1449 <i>CIPE</i> AUG 12 2004 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2666 CON (203-2709 CON) | SERIAL NO. 10/783,126 |
| | | APPLICANTS David C. Racenet et al. | |
| | | FILING DATE February 20, 2004 | GROUP ART UNIT 3721 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|------------------|------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| NC | Des. | 283,733 | 05/86 | Rawson et al. | | | |
| | Des. | 273,513 | 04/84 | Spreckelmeier | | | |
| | | 2,174,219 | 03/39 | Balma | | | |
| | | 3,079,606 | 03/63 | Bobrov et al. | | | |
| | | 3,080,564 | 03/63 | Strekopytov et al. | | | |
| | | 3,252,643 | 05/66 | Strekopytov et al. | | | |
| | | 3,269,630 | 08/66 | Fleischer | | | |
| | | 3,317,105 | 05/67 | Astafjev et al. | | | |
| | | 3,494,533 | 02/70 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 3,692,224 | 09/72 | Astafjev et al. | | | |
| NC | | 3,795,034 | 03/74 | Strekopytov et al. | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|----|--|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| NC | | WO 83/02247 | 07/83 | EPO | | | | |
| | | 2542188 | 09/84 | France | | | | |
| | | 2141066 | 12/84 | Great Britain | | | | |
| | | 0136950 | 04/85 | EPO | | | | |
| | | 0220029 | 04/87 | EPO | | | | |
| | | 0273468 | 07/88 | EPO | | | | |
| NC | | 0537571 | 04/93 | EPO | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | | |
|--|--|----|--|
| | | NC | Information Booklet for Auto Suture, Poly CS-57, Disposable Surgical Stapler, 1988, USSC |
| | | NC | Proximate, RL Plus Reloadable Linear Stapler, instructions NO date |

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| EXAMINER <i>John J. Johnson</i> | DATE CONSIDERED 1/3/09 |
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|-----------------------|--|-----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| NC | | 3,822,818 | 07/74 | Strekopytov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,047,654 | 09/77 | Alvarado | | | |
| | | 4,216,891 | 08/80 | Behlke | | | |
| | | 4,244,372 | 01/81 | Kapitanov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,296,881 | 10/81 | Lee | | | |
| | | 4,305,539 | 12/81 | Korolkov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,354,628 | 10/82 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,378,901 | 04/83 | Akopov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,383,634 | 05/83 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,402,445 | 09/83 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,442,964 | 04/84 | Becht | | | |
| | | 4,470,533 | 09/84 | Schuler | | | |
| | | 4,475,679 | 10/84 | Fleury, Jr. | | | |
| | | 4,506,670 | 03/85 | Crossley | | | |
| | | 4,506,671 | 03/85 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,508,253 | 04/85 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,513,746 | 04/85 | Aranyi et al. | | | |
| | | 4,520,817 | 06/85 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,522,327 | 06/85 | Korthoff et al. | | | |
| | | 4,527,724 | 07/85 | Chow et al. | | | |
| | | 4,530,453 | 07/85 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,566,620 | 01/86 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,568,009 | 02/86 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,573,622 | 03/86 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,580,712 | 04/86 | Green | | | |
| NC | | 4,585,153 | 04/86 | Failla et al. | | | |

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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| NC | | 4,589,582 | 05/86 | Bilotti | | | |
| | | 4,591,085 | 05/86 | DiGiovanni | | | |
| | | 4,605,004 | 08/86 | DiGiovanni et al. | | | |
| | | 4,606,344 | 08/86 | DiGiovanni | | | |
| | | 4,606,345 | 08/86 | Dorband et al. | | | |
| | | 4,607,636 | 08/86 | Kula et al. | | | |
| | | 4,612,933 | 09/86 | Brinkerhoff et al. | | | |
| | | 4,617,928 | 10/86 | Alfrance | | | |
| | | 4,632,290 | 12/86 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,635,634 | 01/87 | Santos | | | |
| | | 4,665,916 | 05/87 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,684,051 | 08/87 | Akopov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,714,187 | 12/87 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,715,520 | 12/87 | Roehr, Jr. et al. | | | |
| | | 4,728,020 | 03/88 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,741,336 | 05/88 | Failla et al. | | | |
| | | 4,767,044 | 08/88 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,788,978 | 12/88 | Strekopytov et al. | | | |
| | | 4,802,614 | 02/89 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,805,823 | 02/89 | Rothfuss | | | |
| | | 4,809,898 | 03/89 | Gassner et al. | | | |
| | | 4,819,853 | 04/89 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,848,637 | 07/89 | Pruitt | | | |
| | | 4,869,414 | 09/89 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 4,881,544 | 11/89 | Green et al. | | | |
| NC | | 4,881,545 | 11/89 | Isaacs et al. | | | |
| EXAMINER  | | | | DATE CONSIDERED 1/8/05 | | | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| NC | | 4,915,100 | 04/90 | Green | | | |
| | | 4,930,503 | 06/90 | Pruitt | | | |
| | | 4,938,408 | 07/90 | Bedi et al. | | | |
| | | 4,941,623 | 07/90 | Pruitt | | | |
| | | 4,951,861 | 08/90 | Schulze et al. | | | |
| | | 4,964,559 | 10/90 | Deniega et al. | | | |
| | | 5,005,754 | 04/91 | Van | | | |
| | | 5,018,657 | 05/91 | Pedlick et al. | | | |
| | | 5,027,834 | 07/91 | Pruitt | | | |
| | | 5,071,052 | 12/91 | Rodak et al. | | | |
| | | 5,100,042 | 03/92 | Gravener et al. | | | |
| | | 5,116,349 | 05/92 | Aranyi | | | |
| | | 5,137,198 | 08/92 | Nobis et al. | | | |
| | | 5,172,845 | 12/92 | Tejeiro | | | |
| | | 5,190,203 | 03/93 | Rodak | | | |
| | | 5,219,111 | 06/93 | Bilotti et al. | | | |
| | | 5,222,963 | 06/93 | Brinkerhoff et al. | | | |
| | | 5,240,163 | 08/93 | Stein et al. | | | |
| | | 5,344,060 | 09/94 | Gravener et al. | | | |
| | | 5,368,599 | 11/94 | Hirsch et al. | | | |
| | | 5,395,034 | 03/95 | Allen et al. | | | |
| | | 5,405,073 | 04/95 | Porter | | | |
| | | 5,413,267 | 05/95 | Solnyhtjes et al. | | | |
| | | 5,439,155 | 08/95 | Viola | | | |
| | | 5,445,304 | 08/95 | Plyley et al. | | | |
| | | 5,452,836 | 09/95 | Huitema et al. | | | |
| | | 5,458,279 | 10/95 | Plyley | | | |
| AC | | 5,462,215 | 10/95 | Viola et al. | | | |

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| <i>Charles J. Alles</i> | 1/3/05 |

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| NC | | 5,464,144 | 11/95 | Guy et al. | | | |
| | | 5,465,894 | 11/95 | Clark et al. | | | |
| | | 5,470,006 | 11/95 | Rodak | | | |
| | | 5,470,008 | 11/95 | Rodak | | | |
| | | 5,470,009 | 11/95 | Rodak | | | |
| | | 5,480,089 | 01/96 | Blewett | | | |
| | | 5,503,320 | 04/96 | Webster et al. | | | |
| | | 5,509,596 | 04/96 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 5,542,594 | 08/96 | McKean et al. | | | |
| | | 5,547,117 | 08/96 | Hamblin et al. | | | |
| | | 5,558,266 | 09/96 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 5,579,978 | 12/96 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 5,580,067 | 12/96 | Hamblin et al. | | | |
| | | 5,603,443 | 02/97 | Clark et al. | | | |
| | | 5,605,272 | 02/97 | Witt et al. | | | |
| | | 5,605,273 | 01/97 | Hamblin et al. | | | |
| | | 5,607,094 | 03/97 | Clark et al. | | | |
| | | 5,615,820 | 04/97 | Viola | | | |
| | | 5,641,111 | 06/97 | Ahrens et al. | | | |
| | | 5,673,842 | 10/97 | Bittner et al. | | | |
| | | 5,678,748 | 10/97 | Plyley et al. | | | |
| | | 5,697,543 | 12/97 | Burhoff | | | |
| | | 5,706,445 | 01/98 | Green et al. | | | |
| | | 5,706,998 | 01/98 | Plyley et al. | | | |
| | | 5,732,871 | 03/98 | Clark et al. | | | |
| NC | | 5,735,445 | 04/98 | Vidal et al. | | | |
| EXAMINER <i>NC</i> | | | DATE CONSIDERED <i>1/3/04</i> | | | | |
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